

27 C.F.R. 178.11

(Also 179.11)

A hand-held device with a hand grip bent at an angle to the bore and having a rifled bore which is designed to expel, by means of an explosive, two electrical contacts (barbs) connected by two wires to a high voltage source within the device is classified as a firearm. ATF Rul. 76-6 is amplified.

ATF Rul. 80-20

[Status of ruling: Active; Amplified ATF Rul. 76-6]

The Bureau has been asked to classify a device known as the Taser Model TF76 and Model TF76A. Generally, the Taser can be described as a hand-held device designed to expel, by means of an explosive, two electrical contacts (barbs) which are connected by two wires to a high voltage source in the device.

The Bureau has determined in ATF Rul. 76-6 that the Taser Model TF1 was a firearm as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 921(a)(3) and that the Model TF1 also met the “any other weapon” definition found in the National Firearms Act (NFA), Title 26, U.S.C., Section 5845(e). This ruling was limited in its application to Taser Models TF1 produced on or after May 1, 1976. The Taser Models TF76 and TF76A were subsequently developed and differ from the Taser Model TF1 in that these models each have a hand grip bent at an angle to the bore and the bore of each is rifled.

The changes in the design of the Taser Models TF76 and TF76A bring them within the exclusion found in the “any other weapon” definition of the NFA for pistols and revolvers having a rifled bore, or rifled bores.

Held, the Taser Models TF76 and TF76A are not subject to the provisions of the NFA. However, they are firearms as defined in Title 18, U.S.C., Section 921(a)(3) and are subject to the provisions of Title 18, U.S.C., Chapter 44 and Title 27, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 178.

ATF Rul. 76-6, ATF C.B. 1976, 96, is hereby amplified.